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OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1959



Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

L. E. LETHBRIDGE, M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

T. F. BENNETT, M.A.P.H.I.

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

T. C. J. WHITE

Engineer and Surveyor:

L. G. BAILEY, F.F.S., M.R.S.H.

Technical Assistant:

I. G. CANN

Full Time Clerk in the Department.

MISS J. M. CHASTEY



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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit this my twenty-fifth annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year ended 31st December 1959, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

The general health of the district has been good, although there was a mild epidemic of Scarlet Fever during the year.

Both the corrected birth and death rates compare favourably with the figures given for the Country as a whole.

Vital statistics are set out below in tabulated form.

SECTION "A"

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Statute acres)	132,535
Population—1931 Census	12,853
Population—1951 Census	12,621
Estimated Home Population—mid 1959	12,070
Parishes	27
Number of inhabited houses	3,936
Rateable Value	£90,550 0 0
Product of the Penny Rate	£356 19 2
Loan Debt	£428,022 0 0

VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Births	92	75	167
Legitimate	87	71	
Illegitimate	5	4	
Deaths	82	72	154

Live Births

Number	167	
Rate per 1,000 population	13·8	16·5
Corrected birth rate	16·2	
Illegitimate live births % of total live births	5%	

Stillbirths

Number	1	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	5·8	20·7
Total live and still births	168	
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	2	

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	11·9	22·0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	12·5	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	11·9	
Early Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	11·9	
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths & deaths combined per 1,000 total live & stillbirths)	17·8	

Maternal Mortality

Number of deaths	nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	—

Deaths

Number	154	
Death rate per 1,000 population	12·7	11·6
Corrected death rate	10·4	

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
1955	12,160	10·1	13·2
1956	12,060	14·7	13·8
1957	12,040	12·8	12·5
1958	12,010	12·5	14·1
1959	12,070	13·8	12·7

AGES AT DEATH TABLE

<i>Age at Death:</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Infants under 1 year	—	2
1 - 5 years	—	—
5 - 15 years	—	1
15 - 25 years	3	—
25 - 35 years	1	—
35 - 45 years	—	—
45 - 55 years	7	3
55 - 65 years	11	5
65 - 75 years	25	21
75 and over	35	40
TOTALS	82	72

The Chief causes of death were as follows:

Cancer	21
Leukaemia	1
Diabetes	1
Vascular diseases	26
Coronary diseases	17
Heart diseases	43
Other circulatory diseases	9
Influenza	1
Pneumonia	4
Bronchitis	6
Other respiratory diseases	1
Nephritis	1
Hyperplasia of the prostate	4
Congenital diseases	1
Other ill-defined diseases	10
Accidental causes	6
Suicide	2

SECTION " B "

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

There was no change in the general provision of the health service during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948:

No use was made during the year of the provisions of Section 47 of this Act.

Ambulances:

A highly satisfactory service, which provides a 24 hour cover for the whole district, is provided by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, under delegated powers from the Local County Health Authorities.

SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply:

Since the passing of the North Devon Water Board Act a number of years ago there has been a gradual assimilation of local water supplies by the services of the Board. At the present time the whole of this vast area of West Devon resolves itself, with the small exception of Okehampton Borough, between the North Devon Water Board and the water undertaking of the Corporation of Plymouth. This rationalisation of water supplies has undoubtedly had a most remarkable and beneficial effect on the rural community, particularly farming, but although the Water Board have already laid many hundreds of miles of pipeline, their job is by no means yet done, and neither is that area which is the responsibility of the Corporation completely served.

Whilst assessing this vast improvement to the supply of water one is naturally led to the actual quality of this commodity. Taking firstly the water itself: this is predominantly surface water, either collected and stored, as is the case of the Corporation, or taken direct from an upland surface supply of seepage from vast collections of peat, direct from a river, or underground storage, as in the case of Taw Marsh. The natural qualities of these waters is interesting in so far as they are acidic, and by reason of this are bacteriostatic. Much has been said in the past about the malicious action of acidic water on metals such as lead or zinc, but this propensity can be very largely eliminated without reduction to full neutrality whilst still retaining its bacteriostatic qualities. One is, therefore, driven to the question as to the necessity, or even desirability, on any public health grounds of chlorinating such sources of supply. In the case of Okehampton Borough, which I have taken a most lively interest in for the past quarter of a century, no chlorination has ever been allowed, neither has any bacteriological contamination been discovered, owing, the Surveyor thinks, to the efficiency of his filters, but I would suggest that this bacteriostatic action of the water is an important contribution to its purity.

As everyone knows chlorine is a most violent poison in its raw state, owing to its intense chemical activity. In one of my authorities, which has of necessity, owing to excessive pollution, to super-chlorinate the water, the tests on the behaviour of cut flowers in this supply are somewhat remarkable, as they have a length of life several days less than the same flowers watered by a supply from the local river. What the effects of this element chlorine are on the animal constitution I have no evidence, but I feel that before such pure waters, coming from the Dartmoor highlands, are molested with chemicals of this nature, searching enquiry should be made into the scientific need for such treatment. My recommendation is that chlorination of these waters should be restricted for emergency purposes only, as when major structural engineering projects are in operation with untested labour.

Attention is drawn to the comprehensive table at the end of the report which sets out in detail the service to each Parish in accordance with the Ministry's instructions.

Mr. Young, District Engineer to the North Devon Water Board, has submitted the following report on progress during the year:

“Some trouble, due to lack of pressure at some high spots, was experienced during the dry summer, but in general a satisfactory supply was maintained due to the provision of about 400,000 gals/day from the partly developed source at Taw Marsh. Water was delivered from wells in the Marsh via a plastic pipeline routed overland and fed into the Board’s main at Tongue End.

“Work at Taw Marsh progressed well during the year and by March 1960 the mainlaying in 21”, 15” and 12” diameters had been virtually completed and plans put in hand for a 12” diameter main from Tongue End to Whiddon Down forming the first part of a main to serve the parishes of Throwleigh, Gidleigh, Chagford and Drewsteignton, and generally improve circulation in the south of the Board’s area. Test pumping of the wells sunk at Taw Marsh showed a good yield and an output of nearly 1,000,000 galls/day is anticipated by the middle of the coming year.

The following samples were taken by the Board during the year:

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Belstone	3	—
Chagford	2	4
Drewsteignton	1	—
Sampford Courtenay	5	—
South Zeal	2	—
Throwleigh	3	1

Analyses of Water Supplies (Public and Private):

The following samples were taken by your Inspectors during the year:

	Number of Samples	Passed	Failed
Bacteriological examination of water ...	46	15	31
Chemical Analysis of Water	4	4	—

“When considering applications for Improvement Grants, under the Housing Act, the Council made it a condition that water supplies, not on public mains, were to be proved bacteriologically sound by the Public Health Department.

“In all, 24 samples were obtained in this connection from eleven properties, of which 6 passed and 18 failed. In past years it has been possible for many of the properties seeking Improvement Grants to be connected to the main supply if their own private supplies proved to be unsound.

“This year, however, many of the properties concerned were in very remote and inaccessible parts of the district where mains water is unlikely to be available for some time. Where analyses from existing supplies were unsatisfactory remedial measures were advised and further samples obtained. Where these were still unsuccessful new sources of

supply were investigated, and in one case a new borehole was sunk. This accounts for the notable increase in the total number of samples taken compared to previous years.

“The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food also submitted 7 bacteriological and one chemical report on samples obtained by them from farms in the district where Grant Aid had been applied for, and in 7 cases the supplies were approved for domestic purposes.”

Sewerage and Drainage:

The preparation and carrying out of schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal proceeded during the year and the general position regarding new schemes and maintenance of existing ones is as follows:

CHAGFORD: The Contract for this scheme was commenced on 1st July, 1959, the Contractors being Messrs. Rowse and Sleep of Gunnislake, Cornwall. The accepted contract figure was £48,067, and it is expected that the work will take about two years to complete. The scheme was prepared, and is being supervised, by the Council's Consultant Engineers, Messrs. Lemon and Blizzard of Plymouth and Westminster. On account of the extent of the construction works which passes through fields and private property the Council decided to appoint a Valuer to deal with questions arising out of disturbance, and a joint inspection was made by him together with the representatives of the Consulting Engineers before the contract was started.

Improvements were carried out to the sewage disposal arrangements at Broomhill; this particular section of Chagford will not be included in the main scheme.

NORTHLEW: This scheme, also prepared and supervised by the Consultant Engineers, was completed in May 1959 at a total cost of £11,478 13s. 11d.

HATHERLEIGH: About forty yards of the main 12" sewer passing through the field below the Market New Road became choked, and when examined was found to be silted up. More than half the sewer was filled with sand, gravel, stones and miscellaneous other objects, and in places there was only three inches clearance between the silt and the top of the pipes. Evidence of cement inside the joints of pipes, and uneven falls, was probably the main cause of silting, which was of many years standing. The affected length was cleared out, broken pipes renewed, and two additional inspection chambers provided at a cost of about £100.0.0d.

An investigation into the proposed scheme for an extension of the present sewered area, renewal of parts of the sewer, and a new disposal works, will be conducted by an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry on 6th January, 1960. The scheme is expected to cost £32,666 and has been prepared by the Consulting Engineers.

BRIDESTOWE: Adaptations to the detritus chamber at the Disposal Works site were devised to deal with storm and surface water in excess of six times dry weather flow, the excess water being irrigated over surplus land at the site by the stop furrow principle.

INWARDLEIGH (FOLLY GATE): A comprehensive scheme for the sewerage of this area was prepared by the Consulting Engineers at an esti-

mated cost of £15,960. Planning approval, in principle, has been given for the site of the disposal works, and lengthy negotiations have taken place, and are continuing, with the owner, regarding its acquisition.

SOURTON. Slight amendments to the scheme prepared by the Council's Public Health Department were made at the request of the Ministry, approved, and authority given to invite tenders. The figure of £5,014 7s. 1d. submitted by Philpott & Co., (Builders) Ltd., of Bridestowe was accepted, and Ministry approval to proceed given. The Council agreed to appoint a full-time Clerk of Works to maintain daily supervision of the Contract which commenced on the 8th September, 1959, and completion is expected in 7 months.

SOURTON (SOURTON DOWN). This block of properties was not included in the main Sourton scheme because of excessive estimated costs in extending the sewer, but at the end of the year the Council instructed the Chief Public Health Inspector to prepare a small scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal to deal with this area. Field work has been completed and drawings are now in course of preparation.

BRATTON CLOVELLY. The survey of this village is being continued by the Public Health Department and the owner of land required for the proposed sewage disposal works has agreed to allow the Council to use part of his field O.S. 861 for this purpose, subject to conditions, and at a price agreed with the District Valuer. Planning approval for the site has been granted.

GERMANSWEEK (EWORTHY). Because of a nuisance from waste water discharging into the storm water system the Council agreed to instal a small settling tank to afford a measure of treatment. Owners of the three cottages concerned contributed £5.0.0d. towards the cost of the installation, which totalled £30.0.0d.

SAMPFORD COURTENAY. An investigation into the proposed scheme prepared by the Public Health Department for an extension of the present sewerage area, a new disposal works, and provision of storm water tanks, was conducted by an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry on 20th May, 1959. Approval in principle was given to the scheme, but minor amendments to the drawings was requested. This has been carried out and forwarded to the Ministry for their approval.

SAMPFORD COURTENAY (STICKLEPATH). Further discussions on the proposed new scheme to sewer properties on the south side of the trunk road took place during the year and a meeting was convened between an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry, a representative of the Devon River Board, and officers of the Council. A scheme was eventually devised by the Public Health Department to treat the effluent from the existing sewage tanks by a system of broad irrigation thus preventing any discharge into the river. The Devon River Board had no observations to make on this proposal which was accepted by the Ministry. The necessary plans and documents have now been prepared and the scheme is to go to tender.

WHIDDON DOWN. An outline scheme for the sewerage of this area has been prepared by the Public Health Department. Planning approval in principle has been given to the site of the disposal works, and negotiations are taking place with the owner's Land Agents regarding the siting of the

works and the effect of such a scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal on neighbouring farm lands.

NORTH TAWTON. This scheme, at an estimated cost of £41,035, prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers, is to be proceeded with and the Engineers have been instructed to prepare the necessary tender documents.

GENERAL. The idea of the use of straw in the drying of sewage sludge is now being practised at most of the Council's existing sewage works, and will be universally adopted as the larger and other new schemes come into operation. This method greatly enhances the drying propensities of the sludge and, in the winter, there has been no difficulty either in handling, or the availability of sludge beds at the disposal works sites. The final product, after a period of composition, is not in any way objectionable, and the Group Secretary of the Devonshire Group of the Soil Association has shown a marked interest in it. Once the prejudice of using sewage sludge for manurial purposes has been broken down it is considered that more and more applications will be made for it, and a ready market created.

Inspection of the District and Public Health Services:

The number of complaints regarding Public Health matters received, recorded and dealt with during the year was 91.

The following table sets out the inspections, etc., made by our Inspectors during the year:

<i>Types of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>No. of Intimation Notices Served</i>	<i>No. of Intimation Notices Complied with</i>
Houses Inspected	67	30	37
Houses re-inspected	109	—	—
Premises other than houses and not mentioned below	20	4	4
Food Premises	48	10	5
Dairies	12	2	3
Refuse Disposal	152	—	—
Public Conveniences	108	—	—
Infectious diseases	2	—	—
Water Supplies	63	3	1
Drainage	103	3	5
Sewerage	577	2	2
Petroleum Acts	33	1	1
Meat Shops, Slaughterhouses and Knacker's Yards	537	—	—
Miscellaneous visits not classified	63	2	2
Rent Act, 1957	3	—	—
Rodent Control	51	1	1
Moveable Dwellings	11	1	—
TOTALS	1959	59	61

Rodent Control:

Fifty-one visits were made to various types of premises during the year in connection with rat infestation. One intimation notice was served and complied with. Most of the properties concerned were Council owned: refuse tips, sewage works and outfalls, but in other cases advice given by the Public Health Department produced satisfactory results by the use of Warfarin.

One noticeable effect of the regular treatment of Council tips is the degree of rat infestation which is remarkably slight. The Whiddon Down tip, which used to be a great problem in this respect, is practically free of rats.

The number of complaints of rat and mice infestation received during the year was 9.

Twice yearly treatment of sewers was undertaken in the following parishes:

South Zeal.

North Tawton.

Hatherleigh.

As rats had been cleared from the South Tawton sewers the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food stated these need not be treated until 1960.

Returns sent to the Ministry indicate that treatments were carried out during the months of May and October. Trial baiting was done in man-holes showing "takes" in the previous treatment, and in those on either side. Sixty-six manholes were thus treated on each occasion and poison was taken at twenty-seven points in May and thirty-two in October. Arrangements made for these treatments are that trial baiting is carried out on two successive days, poison is laid on a third day, and surplus cleared up on the fourth day. It had been hoped that sewers in the other parishes would have been trial baited also, but pressure of other work did not permit it.

Refuse Collection and Disposal:

Applications were received, and considered, for extension and/or more frequent collections in ten different parts of the district, but as this extra coverage would have entailed the frequent use of another vehicle the Council decided against it.

The Contract figure submitted for the year 1960 was £2095.2.1d. and this exceeded the figure for 1959 by £242.3.0d. Much of this extra sum was due to the provision of another vehicle and the increased cost of running it.

Use of six tips in varying degrees has continued during the year, but the bulk of the refuse has been deposited at the Whiddon Down Tip.

The regular application of insecticides has kept the fly nuisance to a bare minimum and, as already stated elsewhere, the rat population is reduced to negligible proportions. There has been a slight improvement in the types of containers used by the public for the disposal of refuse, but the day seems far distant when every householder will deposit refuse in a properly covered receptacle.

The Council authorised an expenditure of some £100 on the provision of litter bins to be fixed throughout the district and the policy was proved to be a sound one, particularly in the built-up areas of the larger parishes, by the use made of the bins by the public.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1959:

Tables relating to these Acts will be found attached to the inner back cover of this report.

During the summer months an unprecedented insanitary state occurred in the rural districts. This situation was brought about by the changed habits of the travelling public. Instead of using accommodation available (hotels, boarding houses, farm houses and so on) a new technique was adopted whereby the itinerants loaded their vehicles with provisions and set out for their holidays. They were therefore independent apart from bread and drink, for provisions, and when tired selected any spot which they considered convenient for their rest and proceeded to indiscriminately foul the countryside during their brief stay with their excrement. I look upon this as a most important public health subject, as all our towns and rural districts are now supplied with raw tubercule tested milk and it is only a matter of time before an epidemic of the enteric diseases occurs from a carrier born infection delivered to the appropriate spot by flies or rodents or other vectors.

I have already raised this matter with the Chairman of the appropriate County Committee, and I understand that action is being taken to provoke legislation in an attempt to deal with this situation. However, the difficulties are so great that one wonders who would administer this legislation, if it is accepted. I very much doubt if the police, with their depleted compliment, could deal with it, and my staff are already fully occupied and could not be expected to maintain a nocturnal vigil enforcing action on these visitants. I would therefore suggest that a more practical method would be one of education, which could very well be propagated by the press and the broadcasting companies in those areas, chiefly metropolitan and midland, from whence these visitors arrive, in the use of "cat-sanitation" which we found most effective during the war in small units, such as would be the case of a family travelling by their own transport.

Mr. Lethbridge, the Chief Public Health Inspector, submitted a special report to the Council in the autumn of 1959, and I am herewith enclosing extracts of this:

"The holiday season, with the increase of all kinds of vehicles on the roads, created a new problem. Now that the holiday season is past its

peak, the influx of vehicles and holiday makers has aggravated old problems and created a new one. The use of roadside wastes and lay-bys at night, by persons en-route to holiday destinations in caravans, vehicles of all kinds, and even tents, particularly on the main trunk road, has given rise to public health nuisances which can only lead to serious consequences. Most holiday makers on their way to the coasts of Cornwall have to pass through this rural district. Only a small number stay for any lengthy period, but many park for a few hours during the day and night, and then proceed. As a result these roadside wastes, lay-bys and land near them are used as conveniences in every sense of the word; most clumps of woodland and bushes become open latrines, scattered with refuse, and mostly fly and rodent infested.

“Owners and occupiers of land have been repeatedly complaining about these conditions and the position at the end of the summer was virtually out of control.

“What is needed are areas of enclosed land near the built-up areas, which could be licensed as parking sites for caravans, cars and the like, where water supply, sanitation and means of refuse disposal could be provided. Private enterprise should be encouraged to provide such facilities, but in the event of them not doing it, the Local Authority should do so. With such facilities provided, sleeping and parking for any length of time on waste land could be controlled, and if necessary, legislation should be introduced to control it. It is obvious that a large percentage of holiday makers visiting Devon and Cornwall do so by road, and with more and more vehicles coming on the roads, and a growing tendency towards the camping holiday, the problem created this summer is a very real one and must be faced and dealt with.

SECTION “D”

HOUSING

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

Year ended 31st December, 1959.

HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS:

1. Demolition and Closing Orders, Housing Act, 1957

	<i>Number of Houses Persons Displaced</i>	
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) ...	7	10
(b) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	—	—
(c) Houses or parts of houses closed under Section 16 (4) and 18 (1)	—	—
2. Repairs (Informal Action)		
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health and Housing Acts	46	

Improvement Grants:

The number of applications for Improvement Grants under Section 20 of the Housing Act 1949, Section 30 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958, and the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959, totals 312. Of this total 132 have received approval and 70 have either been refused or withdrawn.

Town and Country Planning:

Applications for development under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1947, the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 1948, and the Council's Building Byelaws have been received over the past twelve months as follows:

Conversions and adaptations	119
Farm Buildings	45
Advertisements	11
Public Works	41
Refusals	12
New Dwellings	16
TOTAL	<hr/> 244

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Situation</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>Total No. in Parish</i>
BEAWORTHY	Black Hill	2	
	Patchacott	2	4
BELSTONE	Tor Down	6	6
BONDLEIGH	Village	4	4
BRATTON CLOVELLY	Beech Cottages	3	3
BRIDESTOWE	Princess Elizabeth Terrace ...	8	
	Brid Close	4	12
BROADWOODKELLY ...	The Villas	4	
	Splatt	1	5
CHAGFORD	Dennis Park	33	
	Biera View	8	
	Orchard Meadow	35	
	"Monte Rosa"	5	
	New Street	4	85
DREWSTEIGNTON ...	Lamb's Park	4	
	Knowle Lane	4	
	Turnpike Rd., Whiddon Down	4	
	Exeter Road, Whiddon Down	4	16
EXBOURNE	Cawsand View	2	
	The Shrubbery	6	8
GERMANSWEEK	—	—	—
GIDLEIGH	—	—	—
HATHERLEIGH	Moor View Terrace	12	
	Higher Street	6	
	Normandy Place	4	
	Claremont Place	14	36
HIGHAMPTON	High View	2	2
IDDESLEIGH	Winkleigh View	4	4
INWARDLEIGH	Misdon Cottages, Folly Gate	6	
	New Road, Folly Gate	13	19
JACOBSTOWE	—	—	—
MEETH	Station Road	10	10
MONKKEHAMPTON	East View	2	2
NORTHLEW WITH	Costloes	4	
ASHBURY	Moor View	6	10
NORTH TAWTON	Barton Hill	16	
	Fore Street	8	
	Essington—Arundell Road ...	18	42
OKEHAMPTON	Chichacott	4	
HAMLETS	Peacewater	2	6
SAMPFORD COURTENAY	Four Acres	4	
	Station View	4	
	Cross Hill, Tongue End	2	
	Queen Haye, Sticklepath	6	16
SOURTON	Broad View	4	
	Windard Terrace	6	
	Corn Ridge View, Sourton		
	Down	6	16
SOUTH TAWTON	Hill Crest	8	
	Cross Park, South Zeal	10	
	The Croft, South Zeal	24	
	Barn Close, Whiddon Down	10	52
SPREYTON	Cross Meadow	6	6
THROWLEIGH	Middle Clampitts and		
	Higher Clampitts	4	
	Higher Hay	2	6
TOTAL ...		370	370

SECTION “E”

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food and Food Premises:

The number of food premises classified as being within the scope of the Food Hygiene Regulations is as follows:

Hotels, Public Houses and Inns	46
School Canteens	13
Cafés, Restaurants and Guest Houses	22
Food Shops	70
Butchers' Shops	12
Bed and Breakfast premises	28
Bakeries	12
<hr/>	
TOTAL	203

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is:

Ice Cream	45
Preparation or manufacture of sausage or potted or pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale	9
Number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations	106
Number of licences issued for sale of Tuberculin Tested milks	6
Number of licences issued for sale of Pasteurised milks	4

Disposal of Condemned Food:

By arrangement with a firm of manufacturers of meat and bone meals, fertilizers, etc., the bulk of the condemned meat was collected by them from the slaughterhouses and processed.

Canned goods condemned were in such small quantities that their use for animal feeding was not worth while. In cases where canned meat was condemned the use of it as baiting materials for rats proved to be very effective. The remainder of unfit canned goods was buried at one of the Council's Refuse Tips after perforation of the cans.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (Food Hygiene Regulations):

Apart from one instance, no serious contraventions were detected during the year, and whenever necessary, advice given to occupiers of food preparing premises had beneficial results.

A local firm of mineral water manufacturers was prosecuted for selling food not of the quality demanded and fined £20 with costs. Objects found floating in a bottle of lemonade were certified as mouse excreta containing living bacteria.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, Etc.) Regulations 1947-1952:

The manufacture of ice-cream on a small scale is carried out in one premises only, at Hatherleigh, but the trade is normally confined to the summer months.

Inspections have revealed that the manufacturers plant is maintained under clean conditions and every effort is made to ensure a wholesome and satisfactory product.

Unsound Food:

Quantities of unsound food inspected during the year resulted in five certificates being issued covering 52 lbs. 6 ozs. of miscellaneous foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered by tradesmen as being unfit for human consumption. Causes of unsoundness were blown or leaking tins.

Ice-Cream:

Seven applications for registration of premises for the sale of prepacked ice-cream were made and approved by the Council.

Slaughterhouses:

Five licences were renewed during the year for a further period of thirteen months and, in general, the standard of hygiene in the slaughterhouses was satisfactory. With the introduction of the new Slaughterhouse Regulations, butchers in the district were invited to attend a meeting convened by the Chief Public Health Inspector, and presided over by the Chairman of the Public Health and Housing Committee, to discuss them. A brief explanation of the regulations was given and discussions took place on their application and effect. At the end of the year material was being collected for the Report required on the slaughterhouse facilities in the district.

The number of carcasses inspected in the private slaughterhouses of the Rural District during the year was 6,880, made up as follows:

Bovines	455
Calves	1
Sheep and Lambs	5934
Pigs	490

The total weight of meat and offal condemned was 2 tons, 18 cwts., 41 lbs.

Details of the number of animals killed and inspected and the carcasses, part or organs condemned, are set out in the table on page 20.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958:

Twenty applications were received for licences, or renewal of licences to slaughter or stun animals, and in all cases were granted.

Knackers' Yard:

Frequent inspections were carried out during the year and the premises were satisfactorily maintained.

Food Poisoning:

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in the District during the year.

Samples taken under Section 3 Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

Honey
Borax
Wholemeal Bread
Butter
Zinc and Castor Oil Cream
Camphorated Oil
Minced Beef
Sherbet
Tomato Ketchup
Gin
Ice Cream
Ice Cream
Mix-a-Shake Powder
Ground Almonds
Shredded Beef Suet
Vegetable Soup
Raspberryade
Bottled Cider
Self-Raising Flour
Table Jelly
Creamed Rice
Minced Beef Loaf

ALL GENUINE

Milk: contained 10% added water. The defendant was fined £10.0.0. plus £7.7.0. costs on 14.4.59.

Milk: 87 samples—All genuine.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

Diphtheria:

No case occurred during the year.

Poliomyelitis:

No cases were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis:

No deaths were recorded during the year from this cause. Five new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified. At the end of the year 92 cases remained on the Register as follows:

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.
31	37	12	12

Infectious Diseases notified by School Authorities:

	Mumps	Scarlet Fever	Chicken Pox	Rubella
Exbourne	1	2	—	—
Inwardleigh	—	1	2	—
Drewsteignton	1	—	1	—
Highampton	—	—	—	3

Infectious Diseases notified by Medical Practitioners:

	Pneumonia		Measles		Scarlet Fever		Dysentery	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 - 2 years	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
3 - 4 years	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—
5 - 9 years	—	—	—	—	10	8	—	—
10 - 14 years	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—
15 - 25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	2	—	—	1	17	12	—	1

In conclusion I would thank the Chairman and Council for the ready hearing I have received at all times. and the Public Health Staff and others, who have materially assisted in the preparation of this report.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE.

Medical Officer of Health.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Lambs and Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	396	66	1	12,153	502	—
Number Inspected	390	65	1	5,934	490	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	4	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	232	35	—	565	30	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	59.48%	53.84%	2.17%	9.58%	6.12%	—
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	23	2	—	—	12	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.89%	3.07%	—	—	2.44%	—
Cysticercosis: Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	43	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authorities ...	2	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities (excluding out-worker's premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	45	2	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for the sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	1	—	1	—

3. OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111).

<i>Nature of Work</i>	Section 110			Section 111		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) c</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing Apparel (Making, etc.)	11	—	—	—	—	—

Owing to the pressure of other work, it was not possible to inspect factories other than those in which defects were reported.

OKEHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT WATER SUPPLIES

PARISH	Whether the water supply of the area and its several parts has been satisfactory (a) in quality (b) in quantity	Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply, if so, how many and the results obtained; the results of any chemical analyses	Where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and number and results of analyses	Action in respect of any form of contamination	Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains: (a) direct to the houses; (b) by means of standpipes			
					No. of Dwelling Houses		Total Population	
					Main	Standpipe	Main	Standpipe
ASHBURY ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	14	—	46	—
BEAWORTHY ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	9	—	30	—
BELSTONE ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Restricted in dry weather	Piped supply, 3 samples Satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	75	—	248	—
BONDLEIGH ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	—	—	—	—
BRATTON CLOVELLY ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	48	—	158	—
BRIDESTOWE ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	80	—	264	—
BROADWOOD KELLY ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	37	—	122	—
CHAGFORD ..	(a) Doubtful (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply 6 samples taken— 2 unsatisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	368	—	1214	—
DREWSTEIGN- TON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply 6 samples taken— 4 unsatisfactory 2 satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	80	—	264	—
EXBOURNE ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	76	—	251	—
GERMANSWEEK	(a) Doubtful (b) Doubtful	No piped supply Private Wells only	In the past	Nil	—	—	—	—
GIDLEIGH ..	(a) Unsatisfactory (b) Doubtful	No piped supply Private supply only	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—
HATHERLEIGH	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No samples taken	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	283	—	934	—
HIGHAMPTON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	37	—	122	—
IDDESLEIGH ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	33	—	109	—
INWARDLEIGH	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	64	—	211	—
JACOBSTOWE ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	18	—	59	—
MEETH	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	12	—	40	—
MONKOKE- HAMPTON ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	26	—	86	—
NORTHLEW ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped Supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	29	—	96	—
NORTH TAWTON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped Supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	309	—	1020	—
OKEHAMPTON HAMLETS ..	(a) Unsatisfactory (b) Unsatisfactory	No piped supply Private wells only	In the past	None	—	—	—	—
SAMPFORD COURTENAY	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply 5 samples taken Satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	66	—	218	—
SOURTON ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply No analysis	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	43	—	142	—
SOUTH TAWTON	(a) Satisfactory (b) Restricted in dry weather	Piped supply 2 samples taken Satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	250	—	825	—
SPREYTON ..	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped supply	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	—	—	—	—
THROWLEIGH	(a) Satisfactory (b) Satisfactory	Piped Supply 3 samples taken Satisfactory	N.D.W.B.	N.D.W.B.	19	—	63	—

N.D.W.B.=North Devon Water Board Main Service



